SUPPORT FOR THE VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF "BITHYNIA" LEACH, 1818 (CLASS GASTROPODA)

By **JOSHUA L. BAILY**, Jr.
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(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 452)

(For the application in this case, see the preceding paper)

(Note dated 5th March 1953)

Some time ago I submitted an application in regard to the generic name *Bithynia* Leach, 1818, one of twelve generic names which many years ago were brought to the attention of the Commission in a blanket application which was dealt with in part in the Commission's *Opinion* 119. The name *Bithynia* Leach was, however, one of six names on which no decision was given in the foregoing *Opinion*.

When visiting in England last summer (1952) I was informed by Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, that Mr. A. E. Ellis had already submitted an application covering this matter, to which had been assigned the reference number Z.N.(S.) 452. Mr. Hemming felt that in view of this it would be more satisfactory if I should recast my communication in such a way as to give it the form of a comment upon that of Mr. Ellis, rather than making it a separate application seeking the same end. This suggestion meets completely with my approval. Mr. Ellis has stated the case so clearly that another application would be redundant, so I shall therefore confine this communication to commenting upon that of Mr. Ellis.

First of all it should be noted that in *Opinion* 116 cited it was not stated that *Bulimus* Scopoli, 1777, was not a typographical error for *Bulinus* Adanson, pre-Linnaean, but merely that the Commission as then constituted was not convinced that it was. Further bibliographic research might conceivably shed additional light on this matter. Therefore this is not necessarily a case in which strict application of the Rules would lead to confusion ; rather it is a case in which the Rules cannot be applied at all because we do not as yet have access to all the necessary facts, and perhaps may never have it. The name *Bulimus* must therefore remain a term whose meaning is uncertain, or at least is of ambiguous signification, and it should be suppressed for this reason regardless of what its type designation may be.

In the second place it should be noted that when Pilsbry and Bequaert (1927, *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* **53** : 215) designated the type species of this genus they chose the least of three evils ; to have selected either of the other species originally cited by Scopoli (1777, *Introductio ad Historiam Naturalem* : 392) would have consigned to oblivion the names *Succinea* and *Lymnaea*, genera far larger numerically than *Bithynia* and therefore more widespread and more frequently referred to in the literature. To refuse to select a type species would have left the way open for later writers to make the less desirable selection. Mr. Ellis is quite right in saying that the situation is deplorable—but any other action, or refusal to take action, would precipitate an even more deplorable situation. In fact, the only way out of the impasse is to suspend the Rules as Mr. Ellis has requested, and suppress entirely the name *Bulimus* Scopoli, 1777, and to validate the name *Bithynia* Leach, 1818, with the species *Helix tentaculata* Linnaeus as type species, putting the last two names on the appropriate *Official Lists*.

In addition to this action Mr. Ellis has requested the validation of the name *Ena* Turton, 1831 (*Man. L. & F. W. Shells Brit. Is.* : 6), but I do not join in this request merely because I have not familiarized myself with the data concerning this name, as the genus is not an American one.

There are, however, additional actions which should be undertaken at the same time that *Bithynia* is considered. Among these are the names *Bythinia* (W. MacGillivray, 1843, *Hist. Moll. Aberdeen* : 124) and *Bithinia* (J. E. Gray, 1829, *London Medical Repository* : 239). These are either errors for or emendations of

Bithynia Leach, and should be suppressed in such a way as to prevent them being used in the future for any other genus. Since they are sufficiently different in spelling from *Bithynia* to coexist with it, action of this sort is necessary to guard against the possibility of having names that sound the same in legal use with different significations.

Another action needed is the suppression of *Bulimus* as used by A. G. Bruguière (1789, *Ency. Méth. Vers.* **1** : xvi ; 286). It is possible that Bruguière thought that the land snails which he designated by this name were congeneric with the species listed by Scopoli in 1777, but it seems to me more likely that Bruguière considered that Scopoli's reference to Adanson indicated that *Bulimus* Scopoli was intended for *Bulinus* Adanson and that such use of it did not preclude its later use by Bruguière. Mr. Ellis states that the type of *Bulimus* as used by Bruguière had as type the species now known as *Ena montana* Draparnaud. But Pilsbry (1895, *Man. Conch.* (ser. 2) **10** : 4) states that Scopoli himself used *Bulimus* in 1786 for the genus now known as *Strophocheilus* Spix. Thus the name *Bulimus* has been used for three different genera now placed each in a different tribe, and its continued usage cannot help but produce confusion, for which reason it should be suppressed in such a way that it can never be resuscitated again for any purpose.

To recapitulate, I would request that you take the following actions, suspending the rules where necessary :

(1) to suppress the following names, placing them on the *Official List of Invalid and Rejected Names in Zoology* :
  (a) *Bulimus* Scopoli, 1777
  (b) *Bulimus* Bruguière, 1789
  (c) *Bithinia* Gray, 1829
  (d) *Bythinia* MacGillivray, 1843 ;

(2) to validate the name *Bithynia* Leach, 1818, and to place it on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the species *Helix tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758, as type by monotypy ;

(3) to place upon the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* the name *tentaculata* Linnaeus, 1758, as originally published in the combination *Helix tentaculata* ;

(4) to prepare a separate application (or to invite Mr. Ellis to do so) to cover the genus *Ena* Turton, 1831, and the names of the two species contained in it upon which Mr. Ellis has requested action.

ON THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A " DECLARATION " CLARIFYING THE STATUS OF NAMES PUBLISHED IN THE INDEXES OF WORKS

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(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 929)
(For the proposal submitted see 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11**(8) : 246—249)
(Letter dated 25th July 1955)

In your request for a " Declaration " clarifying the status, under Article 25, of names for taxa published in the indexes of works you use, p. 248 in the " Draft Declaration ", in (1) and (2) the term " a Latin name ".

It may seem to the reader that this " Declaration " is only applicable to Latin names, but not to the often-used Greek names in Zoological Nomenclature. Therefore I propose to emend the said " Declaration " by the words : " A Latin or Greek name ", etc.

In all other respects I support your proposal.